

GO Program: Cycle 1 process, results, and Cycle 2 schedule

Koji Mukai

Astro-E2 Guest Observer Facility

Cycle 1

- Parallel announcements from ISAS, NASA, and ESA
 - ISAS announcement was open to all proposers outside the US and ESA member countries
- At the time of announcement, Feb 2005 launch was assumed, hence Cycle 1 observing period of Sep 2005-Aug 2006
- NASA announcement was part of ROSS-2004, released in January 2004

US Timeline

- ROSS-2004 release: January 2004
- International AO-1 release: May 19, 2004
 - Also release of Technical Appendix
- NOI deadline: June 16, 2004
- Proposal deadline: August 18, 2004
- US Proposal Review: October 19-21, 2004
- International Merging: December 7, 2004

Notices of Intent

- NOIs are not compulsory
- 31 NOIs received
 - A small fraction ($\sim 20\%$) of total proposals
 - Only $\sim 40\%$ of NOIs directly correspond to submitted proposals
- As currently structured, they serve no useful purposes in planning the review

Proposal Submission

- Submission was all-electronic:
 - Cover page into Sysefus at NPRS
 - Cover page, general form, and target form into RPS at GSFC
- 160 proposals received, with relatively few confusion over the duality of the proposal submission system
- Proposals were tracked using two different numbers throughout

Review Organization

- Four panels in two broad (Galactic and extragalactic) subject areas, 6/7 reviewers per panel
- Encountered difficulties recruiting reviewers (review fatigue?)
- Additional delays introduced in coordinating logistics with NPRS - reviewer packages mailed late
- Despite this, reviewers did an excellent job!

Some Numbers

- 160 proposals requested 19.8 Msec of time: oversubscription factor of 4.3
 - Of which 17.5 Msec was non-overlapping (3.8)
- Average request was 124 ksec/proposal
- US review allocated 32.5% (US)+5% (JUS)=37.5% x 1.4
- Target divided into three priority levels: 50%A, 40%B, and 50%C

TC and TOO Observations

- Time Critical (TC) observations are accepted only at priority A
- TOO proposals of unpredictable events in specific objects are allowed, and accepted only at priority A
- There will be a mechanism for “non-NRA” TOOs of truly unpredictable events - details TBD

International Merging

- There were considerable number of target overlaps between US, Japan and Europe
 - If all were merged, it would have amounted to ~10% of total time
 - Actually allocated ~7.5% for merged observations
- Merging committee treated the pre-set rules as guidelines and modified them to fit the situation

Review Results

- Internationally agreed target list was posted on the Web on Dec 15, 2004
- Individual letters to US PIs were sent out on Jan 22, 2005
- Of the 160 proposals submitted to the US,
 - 1 had accepted TOO time
 - 44 had at least one A or B target
 - 22 had only C target

Stage 2 (Budget) Proposal

- US PIs as well as US co-Is on Japan or ESA proposals will be invited to submit a stage 2 proposal
- Schedule TBD (with the launch delay, there is no hurry) but probably in April

Cycle 2 Plan

- For an assumed late May, 2005, launch, Cycle 1 observations will be complete in late December, 2006
- Backtracking from this, the proposal deadline is likely to be in August 2006
- It will likely be included in ROSES-2006 announcement